

Rural Clean Energy Workgroup Meeting #3

The Department of Commerce Energy Division hosted the second meeting for the Rural Clean Energy Work Group on December 22, 2021. The objectives of the meeting were to learn about federal, state and alternative opportunities to advance clean energy, and brainstorm policies and programs that dismantle barriers to meeting rural community needs. The group also reviewed draft guiding principles for rural clean energy priorities.

Attendees

Work Group:

- Mary Harrington, Department of Ecology
- Scott Kuhta, Department of Commerce
- Mia Devine, SPARK NW
- Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Department of Natural Resources
- Katie Ware, Renewable NW
- Nicholas Cusick, Pierce Conservation District
- John Rothlin, Avista
- Clyde Abrahamson, Spokane Indian Housing Authority
- Stephen McFadden, Port of Pasco, Director of Economic Development & Marketing
- Brandy DeLange, Association of Washington Cities

Commerce:

- Angela LaSalle
- Aaron Dumas
- Hans Berg
- Sarah Vorpahl
- Forrest Watkins

Presentation

Commerce provided a short recorded presentation discussing federal and alternative opportunities relevant to the goals of the workgroup including two presentations on federal and state opportunities by:

- Veronica Baer, Business and Cooperatives Program Specialist, USDA Rural Energy for America Program
- Tina Hochwender, Managing Director, Department of Commerce, Community Assistance and Research Unit

Discussion

The second part of the meeting was not recorded. Prior to the meeting, Work Group members were asked to complete a homework exercise in which they shared relevant laws and policies that impacted rural communities.

During the discussion, Work Group members were asked to come up with a suite of policy mechanisms, programs and actions that would dismantle the barriers that they identified and ranked in meeting #2. During the second part of the discussion, Work Group members reviewed draft guiding principles for rural clean energy priorities.